

# SKYLINE YURT WINTER GUIDE<sup>2012</sup>

The Skyline yurt is conveniently situated off the groomed Skyline trail, a popular loop used by Nordic skiers and snowshoers. The yurt provides easy access to over 20 miles of groomed and 50 miles of marked ski trails. The yurt is located on a high sunny knob, which provides a 200-degree view to the east, south and west. The view from the yurt is one of the best in the Boise National Forest. From the yurt deck you can see Wolf Mountain, Steele Mountain, Sunset Peak, and Pilot Peak. The open, rolling terrain below the yurt provides beginner telemarkers a chance to polish their skills. Snow is usually available early December to mid April.

**PLEASE READ THE SUMMER YURT MANUAL FOR MORE DETAILS AND HOW TO GET THE YURT CODE.**

- **How to get the code:**

**By email:** [judy.ditto@idpr.idaho.gov](mailto:judy.ditto@idpr.idaho.gov) and the Yurt Coordinator will email the code back to you.

## **Difficulty:**

Advanced beginner to intermediate. The difficulty of touring trails can increase in poor snow conditions and weather. Skiers can expect short, steep sections of trail to herringbone up. Climbing skins are recommended for those with heavy packs. Individuals should be thoroughly prepared and travel with someone who has been to the yurt and can readily find it. The Skyline trail is generally groomed on Thursday or Friday from December 1 to March 15. You should not count on the trail being groomed, but a freshly groomed trail will substantially reduce the amount of energy necessary to get to the yurt.

## **Where to Park:**

The Gold Fork Park N' Ski parking lot is 20 miles north of Idaho City on Highway 21, just past highway mile marker 59. An Idaho Park N' Ski permit is required to park here Nov 15<sup>th</sup> to Apr 30<sup>th</sup>. Please park your vehicles close together and parallel to the side of the lot, south of the toilet. The Department of Transportation snowplow operators become frustrated when they cannot completely plow the parking lot.

You should also bring a shovel because you might have to dig your car out or in, in case of heavy snow. Do not park on Highway 21. The fine for parking on the highway is \$52. The fine for not having a Park N' Ski Pass is \$57.

## **How to Get to the Yurt:**

The trails are marked with blue and yellow diamond shapes, called blazes, attached to trees. The recommended approach to the yurt is to take the Summit trail to the first intersection of Skyline/Summit trails intersection, about 0.5 miles from highway, stay to the right on Summit Trail. Follow the blue blazes on Summit Trail for about 1.2 miles to the Skyline//Summit trails' intersection. Stay left on Skyline trail for about .3 miles. You will come to an open gate. Continue on the Skyline trail until you see the 2-foot yellow diamond shape blaze on a 4x4 post. Stay to the left and follow the 5" yellow blazes on the trees up the hill about 200 yards to the yurt. The yurt sits on the highest point in the area.

**You cannot see the yurt from the 2-foot yellow signpost or from the Skyline Trail.**

## **Elevation Change and Distance:**

About a 650 feet climbing over 2.3 miles (one-way). There are a few short steep sections.

## **Dogs:**

Dogs are allowed at this yurt year around.

## **Solar Power:**

This yurt has a solar unit with four lights. Please do not change the panel location. Use the lights when needed , turn them off when not in use and at the end of your stay.

## **Wood Pile:**

Wood for the stove is located in a separate wood shed.

## **Water:**

There is no water supply at this yurt. Use the large pot provided to melt snow on the wood stove. We recommend boiling the water for 10 minutes before using.

### Special Equipment Needed:

Several members of the party should carry portable snow shovels. Bring two (2) one-pound propane bottles per each night of your stay; a packet of lantern mantles; a roll of paper towels, and keep a snow shovel in each vehicle. **For a list of recommended items for a yurt trip, please read the winter yurt manual.**

### Maps Needed:

Idaho City Area Park N' Ski Location Map, Gold Fork Winter Trail Route to Skyline Yurt.

### Other Maps that may be valuable to you:

SFS Forest Road, and USGS 7.5 minute topographic, "Lowman and Big Owl Creek."

### Global Positioning System Locations

**UTM (in NAD 83):** Note UTM's are rounded to nearest 10 meters

Gold Fork Parking Lot: 11T 0611090 4872620

Skyline Yurt: 11T 0612810 4872340

### Altitudes:

Gold Fork Parking Lot: 5,240 feet

Skyline Yurt: 5,885 feet

**Safety:** The nearest telephone is in Lowman. For emergencies call Boise County Sheriff:

1-800-479-0911 or in a medical emergency: 1-800-632-8000. There is cell phone coverage for most cell phone systems at the high point on the Elkhorn trail once you're on top of the Banner Ridge. There is also coverage from Beaver Creek Summit on Highway 21.

### WARNING:

**Winter travel and the use of a yurt can be dangerous. Do not undertake yurt trips without careful preparation and a serious discussion of the dangers with ALL members of your group.**

**REPORT YURT DAMAGE OR MISSING ITEMS TO 208-514-2418 or 208-514-2419**

PLEASE, DO NOT FEED ANY WILD ANIMALS.

IT CAN LEAD TO THE ANIMALS CHEWING OR TEARING THE YURT SKIN